

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

17 November 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ambassador Heyward Isham
Director for Combatting Terrorism
Department of State

FROM : Cord Meyer, Jr.

SUBJECT : CIA Comments on Proposed Omnibus Anti-Terrorism Act
of 1977

I enclose a memorandum to me from our Legislative Counsel setting out the Agency's position on the proposed Omnibus Anti-Terrorism Act of 1977. The DCI has not yet had time to sign off on this, but I do not anticipate that he will make any change. If he does, I will certainly let you know and I am sending this in order to meet our deadline.

SA/DDCI/CMeyer:as
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Cord Meyer, Jr

MEMORANDUM FOR: Cord Meyer
Special Assistant to the Deputy
Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: George L. Cary
Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT: Proposed Omnibus Anti-Terrorism Act of 1977

1. This memorandum is in response to your request for definitive comments of this Agency on the proposed Omnibus Anti-Terrorism Act of 1977. This bill would effect organizational changes within the Federal Government to strengthen Federal programs and policies for combatting international and domestic terrorism.

2. It does not appear that the proposed legislation would have an adverse effect on the Agency. The bill, however, does not recognize certain recent developments in the organization and management of foreign intelligence activities in support of U.S. counterterrorism programs such as: the national level organizational structure for U.S. anti-terrorism set up under PRM-30; the creation of a subcommittee of the Critical Collection Problems Committee to coordinate Intelligence Community activities with respect to international terrorism; or, the inclusion of international terrorist activities among the duties and responsibilities of the NSC Special Coordination Committee in drafts of the proposed new Executive Order governing U.S. foreign intelligence. Thus, the proposed Council to Combat Terrorism would appear to overlap and duplicate many of the activities of these entities.

3. Section 104 of the bill raises a potential difficulty with respect to the protection of intelligence sources and methods. This section requires the President to give an unclassified report to Congress following any terrorist act affecting U.S. citizens. Information that would "directly threaten" or "seriously compromise" sources and methods may be withheld from the unclassified report, and instead reported in classified form to the House and Senate Intelligence Committees. This is too narrow an exception to the disclosure requirements because sources and methods might also be seriously affected and compromised by an indirect danger or threat.

4. The list of dangerous foreign airports required to be made publicly available by section 107 should be kept to general terms. Otherwise, it could become a valuable compilation of useful information for real or potential terrorists since the list would include a description of the "safety and security deficiencies of each airport on the list."

5. On 15 November 1977 Representative Jim Lloyd (D., Calif.) introduced H.R. 10086, an anti-terrorism bill.

George L. Cary

APPROVED:

Director of Central Intelligence

DISAPPROVED:

Director of Central Intelligence

DATE: _____